

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of manipulating spectral content of a block of pixels for compression includes the step of classifying each pixel within a selected block of pixels as relevant or irrelevant. A forward transform is applied to the selected block to generate a coefficient block. The coefficient values are modified to generate a modified coefficient block subject to a set of pre-determined constraints including a constraint that the relevant pixels have a same value in an inverse transformation of the modified coefficient block as in the selected block. Proceeding in a reverse zig zag coefficient order the method is repeated for other coefficients having non-zero quantized values.

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